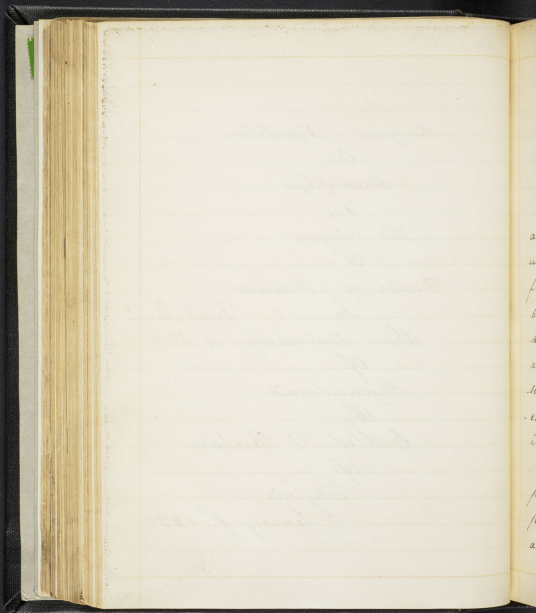


Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1829

No 37 9.  
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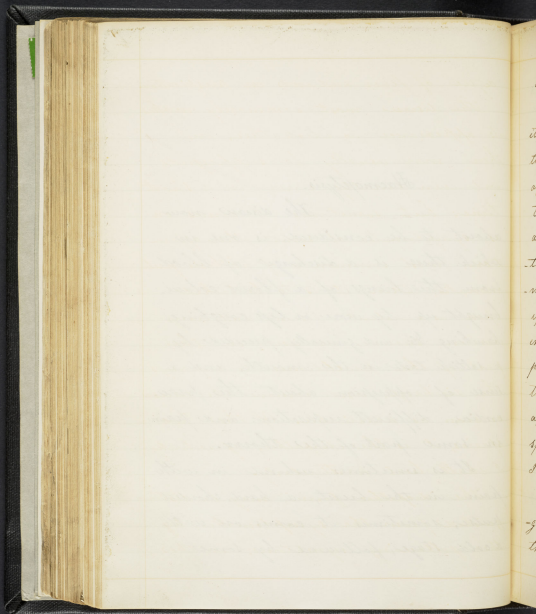
An  
Inaugural Dissertation  
On  
Haemoptysis  
For  
The Degree  
Of  
Doctor of Medicine  
In  
The University 4: 1829  
Of  
Pennsylvania  
By  
Cuthbert D. Barham  
Of  
Virginia  
January 1<sup>st</sup> 1829



### *Haemoptysis.*

The disease now about to be considered, is one in which there is a discharge of blood from the lungs, of a florid colour, brought up by more or less coughing, hawking &c; and generally preceded by a saltish taste in the mouth, and a sense of oppression about the praecordia, difficult respiration, and pain in some part of the thorax.

It is sometimes ushered in with pain in the breast, a hard, chorded pulse; sometimes it comes on with a cold stage, followed by some





degree of fever and ends in perspiration.

The disease most commonly makes its appearance as idiopathic, and then may usually be suppressed, and even finally cured in a short time; but sometimes it comes on as symptomatic of some other affection, most commonly of phthisis pulmonalis; then it is to be looked upon as a violent disease, and every exertion should be used on the part of the practitioner to suppress the discharge, and remove the cause as soon as practicable. Of the two species, it is the idiopathic, of which I shall treat particularly.

The idiopathic form, may be distinguished from the symptomatic, by the following symptoms; in the



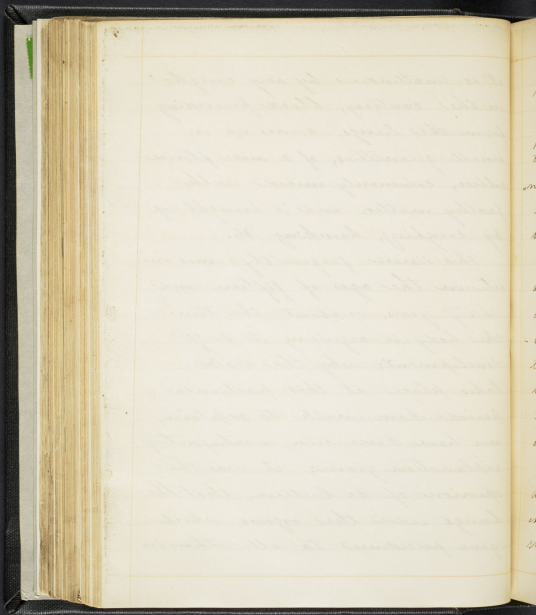
first, there is generally more fever, more general excitement, and not so much pain in the thorax; again, it may be distinguished sometimes by a knowledge of the exciting cause; the idiopathic is most commonly brought on by some external exciting cause, whereas the symptomatic is the result of some peculiarity in the organization of the pulmonary apparatus, and constitution generally.

Haemoptysis is readily distinguished from haematemesis; in the last, blood is thrown up in larger quantities, and is of a darker colour; it is also sometimes mixed with the contents of the stomach, and it is commonly the case also, that



4.  
it is unattended by any cough;  
on the contrary, blood proceeding  
from the lungs, comes up in  
small quantities, of a more florid  
colour, commonly mixed with  
frothy matter, and is brought up  
by coughing, hawking &c.

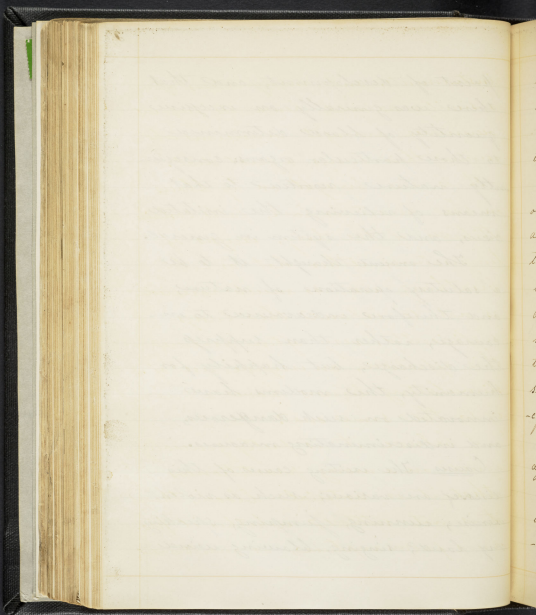
This disease frequently comes on  
between the ages of fifteen and  
thirty years, or about the time  
the body is acquiring its full  
development; why the disease  
takes place at this particular  
period, I am unable to explain,  
nor have I ever seen, a satisfactory  
explanation given; it was the  
opinion of Dr. Cullen, that the  
lungs were the organs which  
gave precedence to all others in



point of development, and that there was generally an excessive quantity of blood determined to those particular organs, consequently nature resorted to that means of relieving the irritated viscus, and the system in general.

The ancients thought it to be a salutary operation of nature, and therefore endeavoured to encourage, rather than suppress the discharge, but happily for humanity, the moderns have innovated on such dangerous, and indiscriminating measures.

Causes The exciting causes of this disease are various; such as violent exercise, running, jumping, speaking very loud, singing, blowing wind





instruments, and many others of a similar nature; hence its frequent occurrence amongst musicians who exercise their lungs a great deal.

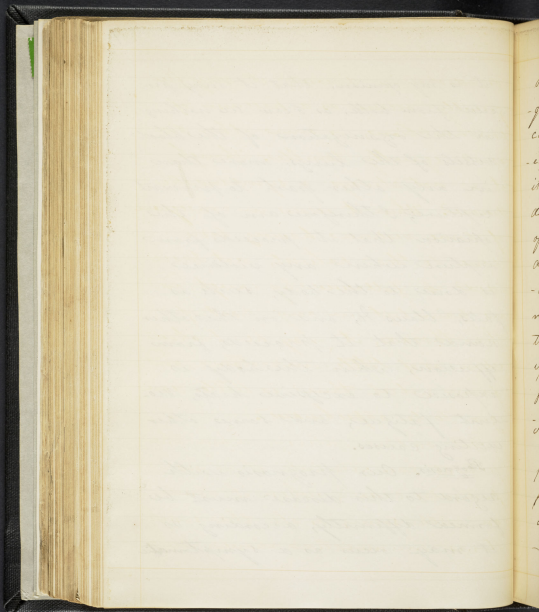
It is also brought on by blows on the breast or back, falls, certain attitudes of the body, excesses of temperature, either hot or cold, breathing air so much rarefied as not to expand the lungs sufficiently, very often produce this affection, an excessive use of stimulating liquors have a tendency to the same end.

I believe it is pretty generally agreed on among practitioners that it is arterial blood, though it is not settled, whether it proceeds from rupture, or anastomosis;



it is my opinion, that it may proceed from both, as I can see nothing in the organization of the blood vessels of the lungs, more than in any other part to prevent rupture; I therefore am of the opinion that it proceeds from rupture when any violence is done to the body, such as falls, blows &c; and on the other hand that it proceeds, from effusion, when the body is exposed to excessive heat, violent fatigue, and some other exciting causes.

Prognosis. Our prognosis with regard to this disease must be formed differently, according as it may occur as a symptomatic



or idiopathic disease; it very frequently occurs as a precursor of consumptions, or some other disease equally terrible. Though it is not always a symptomatic disease. When it occurs in consequence of some violence having been done to the patient, not preceded or followed by cough, and no pain left in any part of the thorax, it may be looked upon as of little importance, and from which there is little danger to be apprehended.

But on the contrary, when the patient can attribute it to no particular cause, when it comes on with some, or all the symptoms enumerated above, such



4  
as saltish taste in the mouth,  
pain in the breast, cough,  
some degree of fever, and also  
succeeded by the greater part  
of these, then we may look  
upon it as a terrible disease,  
and if not timely arrested  
it will run on to something  
very alarming.

Treatment. In entering on the  
treatment, if there should be  
a quick, strong, and hard pulse;  
the practitioner should feel no  
hesitation in drawing blood co-  
-piously from the general sys-  
-tem, and also use topical bleed-  
-ing from some part of the  
thorax by leeches, or scarifica-  
-tions and cups, particularly

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if there be pain in that part.

By early resorting to this invaluable remedy, we may probably check the hæmorrhage, so far as to require nothing more except some gentle cathartic. Bleeding in this acts upon the principle of revulsion, that is, by drawing the blood from the deep-seated to the more superficial vessels, thereby lessening the impetus of the blood in the heart, and large arteries, and relieving the congested viscera. But should this remedy not have the desired effect, we may resort to astringents; such as common salt, a tied sponge taken in the mouth, and allacumed to

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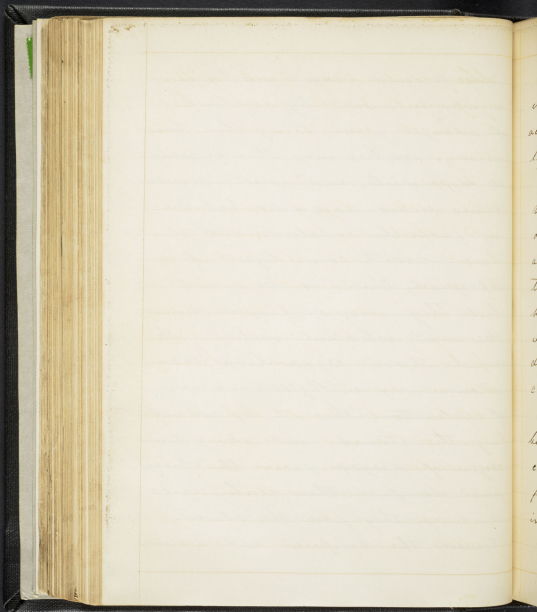
dissolve, or a solution of alum,  
to the amount of eight or ten  
grains in a small quantity of  
water, may be given .p. r. s.  
acetate of lead in the dose  
of two grains, and from that  
up to ten or twelve, combined  
with a small quantity of opium,  
to command its action, is in  
most cases of great service.

In using astringents, we should  
pay particular regard to the state  
of the patient, and only use  
them when there is considerable  
activity in the sanguiferous system.

If the above remedies should  
not command the bleeding, we  
may under due limitations, resort  
to emetics; as the bleeding, how-  
ever,

the first of the year  
the second of the year  
the third of the year  
the fourth of the year  
the fifth of the year  
the sixth of the year  
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the twenty-seventh of the year  
the twenty-eighth of the year  
the twenty-ninth of the year  
the thirtieth of the year  
the thirty-first of the year

may proceed from anastomosis,  
 or may be caused by rupture  
 of a large vessel, being then them  
 copious, emetics may then probably  
 be inappropriate, and would some-  
 times prove dangerous; but com-  
 ing from the exhalents, and at-  
 tended with some degree of  
 oppression, there is no doubt  
 but they may be classed among  
 the most valuable remedies with  
 which we are acquainted. Their  
 action is very intelligible, and easy  
 of explanation; they act, by unload-  
 ing the stomach, and taking some  
 degree of oppression from the lungs;  
 and also from their centrifugal  
 tendency, they force the blood  
 towards the surface, and relieve

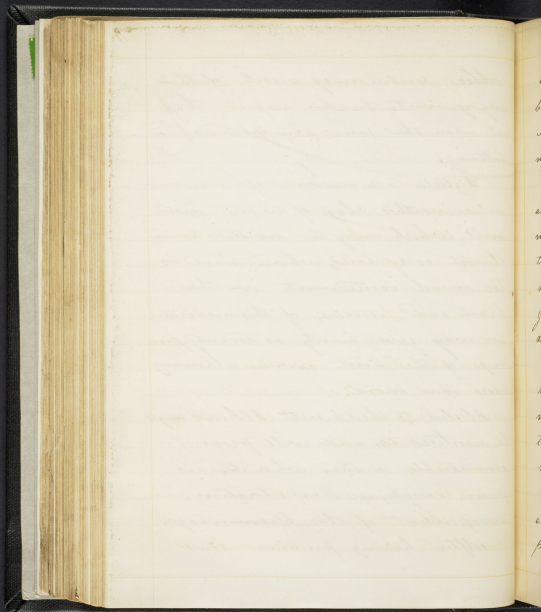


~~these~~ pulmonary vessels of their engorgement. In this respect they act upon the same principle as blood letting.

Digitalis is a medicine of immense value, in this class of diseases, and one which may be resorted to in almost every case, where there is too much excitement in the heart and arteries; of this medicine, we may give twenty or twenty-five drops of the tincture and in alarming cases even more.

Blisters to the breast I think might be resorted to, and will prove of considerable service, when there is pain, cough, and expectoration, independent of the hæmorrhage.

After having premised some





other general remedies, Sinapisms, or blisters, applied to the extremities would add considerably to any other means of relief.

When the disease has run on so as to produce much debility, we must then resort to tonics; among these, the variated tincture of iron holds precedence, and should be given in the dose of ten or fifteen drops, three or four times in the day.

We should at the same time keep the bowels open with some mild cathartic, such as cream of tartar, epsom salts, castor oil, or something of the kind.

While using the foregoing remedies, the patient should be exposed to the cool air, and all

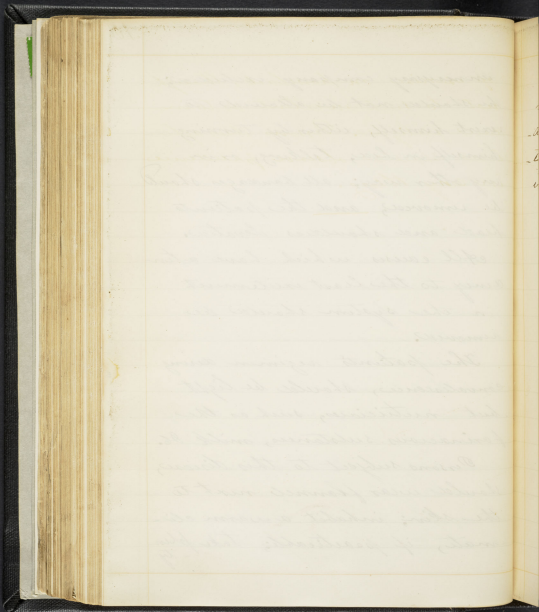
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unnecessary company excluded; he should not be allowed to exert himself, either by turning himself in bed, talking, or in any other way; all bandages should be removed, and the patients head and shoulders elevated.

All causes which have a tendency to the least excitement in the system should be removed.

The patients regimen during convalescence, should be light but nutritious, such as the farinaceous substances, milk &c.

Persons subject to this disease, should wear flannel next to the skin; inhabit a warm climate, if practicable; take plenty



of exercise on horseback, though  
not to such an extent as to in-  
-duce fatigue. Persons thus affec-  
-ted should observe prudence  
in any thing.

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